



# BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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## POSITION STATEMENT: The Agricultural Land Reserve

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The strength of a nation depends on its ability to feed itself with a sustainable food supply. The Province's food security is dependent upon healthy lands, access to adequate water supplies and skilled ranchers and farmers to work the land. Equal consideration must be given to the people, land and water needed to produce food, now and in the future. These are the cornerstones of the food security.



By creating the Agricultural Land Reserve in 1974, the Province abrogated private property rights and caused immediate significant reductions in property values. With the implementation of the Agricultural Land Reserve, the Province has an inherent obligation to ensure farmers and ranchers have the tools necessary to support and grow their businesses. Work is still needed to provide long-term access to adequate water resources along with regulatory framework that enhances ranch businesses in order to meet the needs of the three cornerstones.

The burden of the Agricultural Land Reserve must be cost-shared with society. Programs are needed to discourage the fragmentation of ranchlands, including those within and outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve. In the absence of Provincial regulations and programs to enhance agricultural industries, the Province then has responsibility to provide ranchers with options to diversify their businesses. The burden of the Land Reserve should not be the sole responsibility of the agricultural landowners.

The BC Cattlemen's Association has identified several recommendations for improving the Agricultural Land Reserve. Our goal is to improve the Agricultural Land Reserve for the present generation of ranching families who are responsible for the stewardship of these lands and for future generations who need to see that there is hope for a sustainable future on these lands. The Association will continue to working co-operatively with the Province, the Agricultural Land Commission and Local Governments to implement these recommendations.

For more information about our recommendations, please contact:  
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